BUDGET RESOLUTION/Tax Increase for Pell Grants

SUBJECT: Senate Concurrent Budget Resolution for fiscal years 1996-2002 . . . S. Con. Res. 13. Domenici motion to table the Exon (for Kennedy) amendment No. 1190.

ACTION: MOTION TO TABLE AGREED TO, 54-45

SYNOPSIS: As reported, S. Con. Res. 13, the fiscal year 1996 Concurrent Budget Resolution, will reduce projected spending over 7 years to balance the budget by fiscal year (FY) 2002 without increasing taxes. Savings that will accrue from lower debt service payments (an estimated \$170 billion) will be dedicated to a reserve fund, which may be used for tax reductions after enactment of laws to ensure a balanced budget. Highlights include the following: the rate of growth in Medicare will be slowed to 7.1 percent; Medicaid's rate of growth will be slowed to 5 percent and it will be transformed into a block grant program; the Commerce Department and more than 100 other Federal programs, agencies, and commissions will be eliminated; welfare and housing programs will be reformed; agriculture, energy, and transportation subsidies will be cut; foreign aid will be cut; defense spending will be cut and then allowed to increase back to its 1995 level; and Social Security will not be altered.

The Exon (for Kennedy) amendment would increase taxes by \$8.871 billion over the next 7 years with the intention of restoring proposed funding reductions in the Pell Grant program. No offsets are provided, though the amendment's statement of purpose suggests that unspecified tax "loopholes" could be closed. The certain effects of the amendment would be to increase taxes over the amount permitted by the resolution and to increase total spending.

The amendment was offered after all debate time had expired. Senator Domenici moved to table the amendment.

No arguments were expressed either in favor of or in opposition to the motion to table.

For related debate, see vote Nos. 175 and 184-185.

(See other side)

YEAS (54)			NAYS (45)			NOT VOTING (1)	
	Republicans Democrats (53 or 98%) (1 or 2%)		Republicans (1 or 2%)	Democrats (44 or 98%)		Republicans	Democrats (1)
						(0)	
Abraham Ashcroft Bennett Bond Brown Burns Campbell Chafee Coats Cochran Cohen Coverdell Craig D'Amato DeWine Dole Domenici Faircloth Frist Gorton Gramm Grams Grassley Gregg Hatch Hatfield	Helms Hutchison Inhofe Kassebaum Kempthorne Kyl Lott Lugar Mack McCain McConnell Murkowski Nickles Packwood Pressler Roth Santorum Shelby Simpson Smith Snowe Specter Stevens Thompson Thurmond Warner	Baucus	Jeffords	Akaka Biden Bingaman Boxer Bradley Breaux Bryan Bumpers Byrd Conrad Daschle Dodd Dorgan Exon Feingold Feinstein Ford Glenn Graham Harkin Heflin Hollings	Inouye Johnston Kennedy Kerrey Kerry Kohl Lautenberg Leahy Levin Lieberman Moseley-Braun Moynihan Murray Nunn Pell Pryor Reid Robb Rockefeller Sarbanes Simon Wellstone	EXPLANAT 1—Official I 2—Necessar 3—Illness 4—Other SYMBOLS: AY—Annou AN—Annou PY—Paired PN—Paired	nced Yea nced Nay Yea